

Record

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101 COMMERCE STREET, 4TH FLOOR
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39201-5030
TELEPHONE (601) 292-3334
FAX (601) 292-3335
E-MAIL: mbcb@mbcb.org
WWW.MBCB.ORG

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Miss. Baptists tackle ice storm damage

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (BP and local reports) — As over 100 Southern Baptist disaster relief crews from a dozen states including Mississippi continue to mobilize, more than 160,000 people remain without electricity in Arkansas and Kentucky, the two states' hardest hit by major ice storms in late January.

Jim Didlake, men's ministry director and disaster relief coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, said Feb. 9 that 17 chainsaw teams from Mississippi Baptist churches and associations are located in the Blytheville, Ar., and Mayfield, Ky., areas.

In addition, the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief shower unit is in Mayfield. The unit has separate shower facilities for men and women as well as a full set of laundry equipment and propane-powered hot water heaters. Mississippi Baptists are staffing that shower unit and a second shower unit provided by the North American Mission Board.

Mississippi Baptists continue to rotate in and out of the disaster area, Didlake said.

An estimated 600,000 Kentucky customers initially were without power. Louisville Gas and Electric now is reporting that 16,000 of its customers still have no power, while Kentucky Utilities says 54,000 of its customers remain in the dark.

In Arkansas, 350,000 customers' electricity was knocked out, but that number is now down to 97,000, according to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

The national death toll is 55 from the historic ice storm that blew out of the central plains and covered several states in the Midwest and South with as much as two inches of ice. The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management reported that 24 Kentuckians have died as a result of the storm, while 17 died ice storm-related deaths in Arkansas.



PAUSING TO PRAY — Disaster relief volunteers in Lancaster County, Ky., pause to pray for homeowner Trudy Dubuque and her son John, who were caught up in the midst of the record-setting ice storms in late January. The volunteers helped clear debris from Dubuque's home. Mississippi Baptists have been part of the massive Southern Baptist response to the storms. (BP photo)

In Arkansas, 16 Baptist disaster relief teams have arrived from the Kansas/Nebraska, Louisiana, and Mississippi state conventions. Most of the volunteers will tackle 150 requests for much-needed chainsaw work for downed trees due to the ice.

Five additional shower units also have been provided by Kansas/Nebraska, Louisiana, and the North American Mission Board for disaster volunteers in Arkansas. Work sites include Berryville, Mt. Home, Blytheville, Paragould, Siloam Springs, and Springdale.

Three disaster teams from Louisiana and two from First Church in Springdale, Ar., were welcomed visitors at Al Slimmer's home on Buena Vista Circle in Springdale. Slimmer, 67, and his 64-year-old wife were trapped in their home, in ill health, and without power for six days.

"We've been in bad health and, without these guys, we would have been in trouble," Slimmer said.

Howard Turner, pastor of Live Oak Church in Denham Springs, La., led the chainsaw team at Slimmer's home, assisted by chainsaw teams from First Church in Bentonville, Ar., and First Church, Springdale.

Turner said he has served on a chainsaw team for 10 years. Although he's worked Hurricanes Ivan, Katrina, and Gustav, he said ice storm work is particularly challenging.

"There are two issues with ice," Turner said. "First, you have to be really careful when there's ice on a

roof. Second, it's really tough on your chains and equipment when you have to cut through ice. You go through twice as many chains, but we do it because we love the Lord."

In Kentucky, more than 20 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief crews are now on the ground. In addition to its own state Baptist disaster relief teams, Kentucky is receiving the lion's share of its chainsaw support from the Tennessee Baptist Convention, which is providing seven recovery units for chainsaw work based in Princeton, Ky.

In addition to outside help, the Kentucky convention itself also is operating feeding units in Cadiz, Princeton, and Stanford, and a recovery unit in Beaver Dam.

Karl Ragan, manager of NAMB's disaster operations center in Alpharetta, Ga., said the center is monitoring the situation and is ramping up for more activity in the days ahead by adding NAMB staff.

"We keep discovering more and more pockets of needs, especially in Kentucky and Arkansas," Ragan said. Other disaster relief work is under way by Baptists in Oklahoma and Missouri.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. For more information, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbc.org.

Nominees sought for MBC posts

Jackson, Ms (Special) — Members of the Committee on Nominations will soon begin reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) for 2010. According to Joe Pate, committee chair and pastor of First Church in Greenwood, there will be a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

Baptist Children's Village
Baptist Health Systems, Inc.
(Jackson)
Baptist Memorial Health Care
System (Memphis)
Board of Ministerial Education
Education Commission
Historical Commission
Blue Mountain College
Mississippi College
William Carey University

Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Mississippi Baptist Foundation

The Committee on Nominations will work together with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers of the 174th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 27-28.

Nomination forms are available from Executive Administration — Brenda Box, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-Mail: bbox@mbcb.org. Telephone (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 201.

Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Executive Administration, at the above address to be received no later than May 1.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Benjamin Ivey
bivey@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Marcus Bowers, Brandon
Jimmy McFatter, Amory
Billie Buckley, Petal
James Bates, Gulfport
Archie Herrin, Columbia
Chris Webb, Jackson

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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The stimulus bombshell

The crazed rush in the present U.S. Congress to pass the stimulus bill could legitimately be considered buffoonery under less serious circumstances, but a trillion dollars in taxpayer commitment is nothing to laugh at. Our politicians in Washington talked boastfully of "slashing" the stimulus bill to a mere 800 billion dollars or so, but history teaches us that our political profligates seldom tell the truth on such matters. Look for the final version of the bill, which was euphemistically named the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (H.R. 1), to total around one trillion dollars.

Even though ludicrous doesn't begin to describe the financial debauchery contained in H.R. 1, there is a bombshell clause hidden deep within the legislation passed last week by the U.S. House of Representatives that could have far-reaching religious implications. Section 803 of the 647-page bill provides money for construction and renovation of facilities on the campuses of the country's colleges and universities.

However, that generous provision for colleges and universities is followed by this ominous statement:

PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS. - No funds awarded under this section may be used for - (C) modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities - (i) used for sectarian instruction, religious worship, or a school or department of divinity; or (ii) in which a substantial portion of the functions of the facilities are subsumed in a religious mission.

"This provision would, in fact, prohibit universities that allow student groups to use facilities for Bible studies or worship services from receiving federal funds under the stimulus package," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Senator Jim DeMint, a South Carolina Republican, told CBN News that the clause opens the door to untold numbers of lawsuits. "This will empower the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) with ambiguous laws that create liability for schools, universities, and student organizations."

Two of the Mississippi's four congressmen voted for the House bill with the anti-religious clause included. District One Congressman Travis Childers, a Democrat and member of East Booneville Church, Booneville, voted for the bill as did fellow Democrat and District Two Congressman Bennie Thompson.

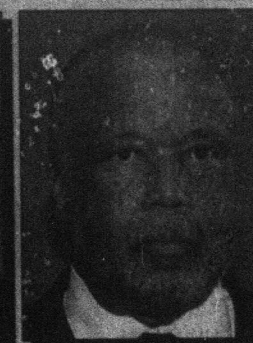
District Three Congressman Gregg Harper, a Republican and member of Crossgates Church, Brandon, voted against the measure. District Four Congressman Gene Taylor, a Democrat, also voted against the measure.

Neither Childers nor Thompson responded to multiple requests from The Baptist Record for answers to three simple questions: (1) Why did you vote in favor of H.R. 1 with the anti-religious clause included? (2) Did you know the anti-religious clause was in the bill when you voted for it? (3) If you didn't know, why not?

It's not unreasonable to imagine that schools accepting the stimulus money will



Childers



Thompson



Harper



Taylor

feel the need to preemptively remove religious groups, such as Baptist Student Unions, rather than face the wrath of the federal government and the ACLU. Childers and Thompson owe an explanation to their constituents that they have not yet provided. We should insist they do so.

GUEST OPINION:



Jesus and Groundhog Day

By Stephen Douglas Wilson
Paducah, KY.

speculated that the weather on Candlemas could predict weather for the rest of the winter. One traditional Scottish poem relates:

*If Candlemas Day be dry and fair,
Then the half o' winter will come to mair,
But if Candlemas Day be wet and foul,
Then the half o' winter is gone at Yule.
If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Then winter will have another flight,
But if it be dark with clouds and rain,
Then winter is gone and will not come again.*

Essentially the popular custom stated that a dark, cloudy day on Candlemas would predict a short winter while a sunny day meant that winter would continue for some time.

The nice weather on Candlemas was thought to be only a brief interlude that would not last.

Furthermore, it was also thought that animals able to see their shadows on this day would foreshadow a continuing harsh winter.

When English-speaking settlers arrived in what would be the United States, many of them tended to be Puritans or members of Christian communities that largely rejected many of the Roman Catholic or Anglican sanctioned holidays. They possessed little desire to celebrate Christmas let alone related festivals like Candlemas, so Candlemas failed to develop into a major religious holiday in America in spite of its link to the visit of Jesus to the Temple on day 40 of His life.

Nevertheless, many of the popular customs associated

with Candlemas survived in colonial America. Feb. 2 still was thought to have some significance in predicting the winter weather and Americans of European descent now transferred the animal custom of seeing its shadow to the American woodchuck (groundhog).

Slowly a popular winter festival evolved, but one largely shorn of its Christian roots.

Today Groundhog Day takes its place as a growing phenomenon in the United States complete with school observances, greeting cards, trinkets, and paraphernalia for purchase — even a federally-sanctioned "official" groundhog in Pennsylvania.

The holiday was also commemorated in a popular Hollywood movie of the early 1990s.

Hopefully, most Americans and many Baptists can be educated to recognize that Groundhog Day once celebrated an important event in the early life of the Savior. The day commemorates the first New Testament promise that Christ would also be the Savior of the Gentiles.

Wilson is the vice-president of academic affairs at Baptist affiliated Mid-Continent University in Mayfield, Ky. He is also a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

LifeWay announces digital music program

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — LifeWay Worship unveiled the next generation in digital music on Feb. 5 in Nashville, introducing SongMap to Christian and mainstream music industry executives, worship and music ministers, and government and civic leaders. It was available for public use beginning Feb. 9.

SongMap is the first Web-based technology that enables users to choose specific sections of songs such as verses, choruses, and transitions in the keys they prefer and then download sheet music and audio files of the custom arrangements. The technology was developed to meet the needs of worship leaders who want more ease and flexibility arranging songs for church services.

SongMap is the culmination of three years of work involving hundreds of specialists ranging from theologians to software engineers, 150 studio musicians, and the recording of more than 900 of the most loved church songs in just 10 months — the largest known recording project in history of Nashville, which is considered the international base for the country music business.

Using the Web-based application, anyone can customize music and download the sheet music and audio files for as little as \$1.49. The selection of songs ranges from traditional hymns to contemporary worship songs, as well as such standards as America the Beautiful.

"SongMap is the first technology that gives users the ability to change songs on the Internet to create the perfect moment in their worship service," said Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship and former music minister at Broadmoor Church, Madison, and Crossgates Church, Brandon. He recently served as worship leader for the 2009 Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference at First Church, Clinton.

"Some churches need sheet music for a full rock band each week, while others rely solely on accompaniment tracks. We set out to find a way to help these churches create music that suits their congregations. In doing so, we created a new music technology that does what no other technology has done before."

SongMap joins other resources of the LifeWay Worship Project, a groundbreaking set of new products that includes the Baptist Hymnal and The Worship Hymnal, released in 2008, along with PowerPoint presentations, video and audio files, and sheet music.



HIGH TECH — LifeWay Worship Director Mike Harland (right), former music minister at Broadmoor Church, Madison, and Crossgates Church, Brandon, answers questions at the SongMap media preview on Feb. 5 in Nashville. Also participating were (from left) Patrick Watts, manager of marketing, events, and Internet development for LifeWay Worship; Sonya Douglas, project manager for LifeWay Worship Project; and Jeff Mikres, advanced systems engineer in Internet technologies. (BP photo)

SongMap was designed for use by anyone with an Internet browser, Harland said. Users simply register free of charge at www.life-wayworship.com. The cost to "map" a song — choose segments to create customized print music and accompaniment tracks — ranges from \$1.49 to \$1.99 per track (keyboard, guitar, etc.).

Once a song is purchased, the user has immediate access to the corresponding MP3 file and sheet music, and the custom file is stored in the user's online media library for future use.

LifeWay Worship is a unit of LifeWay Christian Resources, the Nashville-based publishing arm of the Southern Baptist Convention that also includes the LifeWay book store chain.

Mandatory Canadian class touts all religions as 'true'

MONTREAL, Quebec (BP and local reports) — Students in the Canadian province of Quebec are being required to take a new Ethics and Religious Culture class that teaches "all religions — including pagan animism and cults — are equally 'true.'"

"It is not a religion instruction course. It is religious culture," Stephanie Tremblay, a spokeswoman for Quebec's education department, told Canada's National Post newspaper. "We introduce young people to religious culture like we introduce them to musical culture. The goal is to better know and understand others."

School boards across Quebec reported in December that they had received and rejected more than 1,400 requests from public school parents seeking to have their children exempted from taking the course, which requires about two hours per week and also is mandatory in private schools.

Not only did students at one Quebec high school have their exemption requests turned down, but they were

suspended and threatened with expulsion for not attending the class they said violates their freedom of conscience.

At least one set of parents is challenging the class in court, the newspaper said. "All the parents are doing is claiming a right that is recognized, the right to educate one's child in conformity with one's religious or philosophical convictions," said Jean-Yves Cote, a lawyer representing the unidentified family.

Paul Donovan, the principal at Loyola High School in Montreal, told the National Post his school has initiated a court challenge against the class, which he said does not ask students to distinguish between right and wrong.

"What it essentially says is that religion is just, 'You like tomato soup and I like pea soup, so don't be all offended because someone likes tomato soup. It's really just a matter of preference,'" he said. "Religion could be Wiccan or Raelian or any of the new movements or atheism or agnosticism."

A Voice of the Martyrs

(VOM) blog post commended the students for their opposition to state religious teaching.

"We believe that the state has no right to mandate religious education, force students to learn the content of other religions and to deliberately seek to undermine the religious convictions of those who refuse to accept a relativistic view of truth," VOM said.

"It is the right and responsibility of parents to train their

own children according to their own religious beliefs, not those of the state," said the persecution watchdog group, which usually finds itself reporting on Christian persecution far from North America.

"Religious courses, if offered, should be optional or alternatives provided. But the state must not mandate what religious content will or will not be taught to children, especially against the wishes of their parents."

Looking back

10 years ago

His service on the federal panel studying the impact of gambling has convinced James Dobson the activity is a "destroyer" and the lobby behind it is "the most powerful force in government today," the president of Focus on the Family says.

20 years ago

An independent assessment of the financial condition of William Carey College predicts that without immediate relief, the school will be hard-pressed to operate over the summer months. John Minter and Associates of Boulder, Colo., was hired to conduct the study.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptist churches in 1958 baptized 17,195 persons, the largest number since 1951. Second Church, Greenville, led the state with 134 baptisms.



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. **Heidelberg Church, Heidelberg:** Revival, Feb. 15-18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert Meyer, speaker; Price Harris, music; Bill Boulton, pastor.
2. **Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale:** Revival, Feb. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, Jerry Mixon, Jim Futral, and Matt Buckles, speakers; Tim King, music; Joey Barnard, pastor.
3. **Hollandale Church, Hollandale:** Revival, Feb. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Barry Corbett, speaker; Ronnie Cottingham, music.
4. **Magnolia Church, Laurel:** Homecoming, Mar. 1; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Danny Bullock, speaker; Gloria Ladner, music.

THE PROBLEM WITH PERSIMMONS

It was the fall of the year, and the change in seasons seemed to bring its own special unique kind of excitement and anticipation. That is especially true with autumn as the days shorten and the air becomes cooler. The heat and humidity of the summer begin to fade and the trees decide to move from lush, majestic green to beautiful, spectacular, eye-catching rainbows of vegetation. For folks remotely related to the agricultural community, it is a special time of the year that shouts, "Harvest!" Some of the gathering is already complete, but the beautiful seas of white are in spots all across our state, especially in huge chunks across our Delta awaiting to be gathered.

Well, it was that time of year and several of the grandkids were over at the house. One of my grandsons, Ridge, wanted to know if we could go over to that fruit tree that I had taken him to the year before. I asked, "What fruit tree are you talking about?" He replied, "You know the one somewhere over here that you helped me climb up in the tree." I recalled the year before he and some of his siblings and cousins made a trek with me to go and experience eating wild persimmons. At the time, I suppose I was just trying to keep them busy and give them something to do but underlying that thought was an even greater, more meaningful opportunity, at least for me. Along with just enjoying being with them, I wanted my grandchildren to experience one of my own memories as a youngster, traipsing around in the woods and coming across the persimmon tree and stopping to eat some of the sweet, seed-infested, prune-like fruit. Ridge remembered and so I told him, "Sure, let's go do that!" Listening to the conversation was his younger sister, Rivers, who certainly did not want to be left out, and so off we went to see if the persimmons were there and ready to be eaten.

Sure enough, when we arrived at some of the persimmon trees the harvest was ready and I showed them how to find the soft, just-ripe fruit to either pick up off the ground or pull from the tree. I do not know how many persimmons it would take to fill you up since they seem to be more seed than substance. For me personally, my persimmon taste buds are satisfied rather quickly. We searched, picked, examined, and nibbled. All of us were having a good time.

Now that brings me to the problem with persimmons.

There are two main problems that you have to deal with when eating persimmons. Problem number one is staying away from ruined fruit. When persimmons get ripe and drop off the tree other animals may come along, nibble on them, and contaminate them. Ants and insects will come and start harvesting the pulp for

the sugar content. You learn to check it out and avoid ruined fruit. The second problem is the one for which the fruit may be best known, and that is that you don't want to eat a persimmon if it is not ripe. While for me it was just a simple outing on a beautiful autumn afternoon with a couple of my grandkids, I recognized that there were also deep theological concepts that every one of us should realize. I did not preach a sermon beneath the persimmon tree, but I think it is noteworthy for each of us to keep before us day by day. It is extremely beneficial to each of us if we have an awareness of and maintain sensitivity about reaching out and taking contaminated fruit into our lives.

Satan is a master at contaminating the good things in life. It is his plan and devious approach to take something that is good and imbed it with something that will hurt you. From our very first sight of Satan in the garden, it has been that way. Cunningly, temptingly, he invites and encourages us to come and taste what looks good but is infested with the painful consequences of our actions. To this day, he urges us to experiment with something we have not done, to taste something that is beyond our boundary, and to eat and drink something that is ultimately damaging to us. It looks okay on the surface, but we fail to see the whole picture and sometimes the unseen parts result in pain and suffering.

Another problem with persimmons is akin to the first problem but different and has its consequences. Do not eat a green

persimmon. There have been times when I have been with folks who were not familiar with persimmons and I have taken a green persimmon and encouraged them to taste it. Only one bite leads them to understand the old colloquial proverb, "You look like you've been eating green persimmons!" You take a bite of a green persimmon and it will stay with you for a while. You can spit and sputter, drink water, wash your mouth out, and it seems to stick and stay.

It is not that the persimmon is bad so much as that the timing is not right. It is interesting to study the laws and guidelines which God gives us for meaningful living and discover that some of them have to do with timing. It is not that God is trying to prevent us from having life at its fullness so much as He knows that life at its best must be received, experienced, and enjoyed inside the boundaries of God's safekeeping. We live in a world that seems to be absolutely obsessed with sex. The Bible says clearly that God created that dimension of humanity and provided it for the good of all people. The guideline is not, "If it feels good do it," but rather it is to be expressed and shared within the covenant of a loving marriage. When it is taken out of the guidelines of marriage and it becomes premarital sex, extramarital sex, or just at any point a follow-your-feelings kind of sex, it is filled with disappointment, emotional pain, and even death.

It is not at all unusual to hear or to read some humanistic psychologist in our day

demeaning biblical guidelines for marriage and sex and declaring that what needs to be done is simply to encourage people to be responsible as they experiment and express their sexual feelings. It is interesting that the kind of responsibility they offer leads to the kind of irresponsibility that plagues our society. Say what you will; when you bite into a persimmon and the time is not right regardless of what it looks like, there will be a sourness to pay. The only tried and true responsible action is found in the Word, the plan, and the timing of God.

With all of that said and with all of my instruction that came at the persimmon tree, you know what happened. The youngest grandchild who had not had the privilege or blessing of eating a green persimmon wanted to know what it tasted like. I said, "Well, it's not good." She said, "Well, it looks like the others we're eating that taste good." I said, "Yes, but it is not!" It wasn't long before nothing else would do but for her to try it and in just a few moments, you would not believe all of the hacking, coughing, spitting, and sputtering that took place. It took a walk back home, a mouth washing, and a Popsicle to get back to normal.

For those of us who are facing much larger issues and greater things, there is only one remedy and that is the grace of our Lord Jesus who took all of our pain on Himself. He died for our disobedience and He frees us from the sourness of life. He offers to us abundant living in His will.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

It's that time of year.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE BEGINNING February 12, 2009.

VISIT

www.msmbaptistfoundation.org
TO COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry provides needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. For more information about the MBF Scholarship Ministry, please visit our website, www.msmbaptistfoundation.org. Scholarship applications for the 2009-2010 academic year will be available on our website beginning February 12, 2009. Completed applications must be received in the MBF office by April 30.



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 12, 2009

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY MISSISSIPPI BSU

**DEADLINE:
MAY 15!**

Pastors

WMU Leaders

Did you know that ...

... 2009 is the 62nd year of Mississippi Baptist Student Union sending out Summer Missionaries?

... during those years 3,565 students have served, and Mississippi BSUs have raised over two million dollars to send them?

... these students are servant leaders, giving up summer jobs and income to become missionaries?

And did you know that ...

... you and your church can be personally involved and supportive of one of these students as they serve this summer?

... by adopting a student for the summer, your church or WMU can experience first-hand support for those who are sacrificing to serve?

You can help by assisting students in many ways:

Spiritual - Praying for and remembering these students.

Physical - Helping students with small needs such as toiletries, gift cards, stamps, etc. Some churches have involved their VBS during the summer, their children, and their workers, in various support activities of Summer Missionaries.

Contact Peggy Powell in Collegiate Ministry, 601-292-3299, 1-800-748-1651 or ppowell@mbcb.org



REFRESH

Come unto me, all you who are weary ... and I will give you rest. Learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly.

FOCUSING ON KINGDOM ESSENTIALS

A conference for congregational leaders seeking spiritual strength and refreshment so that they may serve more effectively in the Kingdom of Christ.

CONFERENCE HEADLINERS

Don Wilton - Keynote Speaker
T.W. Hunt - Spiritual Growth for Leaders
Tony Merida - Sunday Sermon Preparation
Lavon Gray - Worship: Then, Now and Forever
Tommy King - Balancing Bivocational Ministry and Lifestyle

May 30, 2009

9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Temple BC
Hattiesburg**

Missions Extravaganza for Preschoolers and Children

1st-6th grade children who are coming with their parents are invited to participate in a Missions Extravaganza. Child care will be provided for all preschoolers who are coming with their parents, by the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church. There is no cost for the child care or the Missions Extravaganza, however preregistration is required. The deadline to register is Friday, May 15, 2009. To register for the Missions Extravaganza or child care, please call Diane Howell in the Preschool Ministry Department at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, at 601-450-3069.

For more information, contact Laura Marler in Mission Strategy at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 800-748-1651, ext. 231, 601-292-3231, or E-mail: lmarler@mbcb.org.

Witnessing Through Media

AWARDS INFO

PURPOSE: The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN: May 1-2, 2009

Awards Banquet on Friday, May 1, 7-9 p.m.

Workshops on Saturday, May 2, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

(Watch our Web site for more information on the workshops — www.mbcb.org)

WHERE: Colonial Heights Baptist Church

444 Northpark Dr., Ridgeland, MS 39157

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

DIVISION I

Small budget projects using volunteers as well as in-house production facilities.

DIVISION II

Medium to large budget projects using paid staff or outside production house. This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.

A. VIDEO

1. Church Musicals
2. Feature Presentation (30-60 minutes)
3. Magazine
4. Commercial
5. Promotional (stewardship, building campaign, etc.)
6. Music Video
7. Worship Service (broadcast and nonbroadcast)

B. AUDIO

1. Radio Program
2. Commercial
3. Special Project

C. WEB SITE

D. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY

ENTRY PROCEDURE:

1. Each entry must include: An entry form, description and fee. Cost: \$15 fee per entry (Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)
2. A separate entry form and fee is required for each category entered. Duplicate the entry form, if necessary.
3. Entry fee does not apply to workshop registration fee.
4. Submit program in the following formats:
 - Video - DVD, Beta SP, Mini-DV, DVCAM, or S-VHS
 - Web site - submit address on entry form
 - Radio - CD
5. Submit each program entry on a separate tape and clearly label with:
 - Name of Local Church
 - Category Name
 - Title of Entry
 - Original Running Time
6. The program should have been aired or viewer! prior to March 1, 2009.
7. The judges reserve the right to move an entry to an appropriate category, add or delete categories.
8. All questions must be answered on entry form.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: CALL 601-292-3378 OR

CHECK WEB SITE FOR ENTRY FORM AT www.mbcb.org

Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than **March 6, 2009, 4:45 p.m.**

ENTRIES SHOULD BE MAILED TO ONE OF THESE ADDRESSES:

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry

MBCB

PO Box 530

Jackson MS 39205-0530

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry

MBCB

515 Mississippi Street

Jackson MS 39201-1702

SINGLE Life Conferences

All conferences begin at 6:30 and end at 8:30 p.m.
(Free meal provided.)

Thursday, February 19
Glade Baptist Church, Laurel

• Single Parenting: Cede Stangback
Monticello, Executive Director for
Pregnancy Choices

• Picking up the Pieces: Wayne Hudson
Vanderveer, Author of the book, "Many a Tear"
Harrisburg, Pa.

Thursday, March 19
FBC, Sumrall

• Five Love Languages for Singles:
Glenn Shows, MBCB

• Singleness with a Purpose: Becky Brown,
Recording Artist and Author, Richland

For info on either of these conferences, contact the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

SINGLES' PURPOSE EVENT

Saturday, March 7

FBC, Laurel

Speaker: Ron Mumbower

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

\$5 (includes lunch)

Break-outs: Throwing off Burdens

Joy for the Journey

Missions: "Block Party"

Sponsored by MBCB

Discipleship and Family

Ministry Department

To register, call 601-649-8114 or E-mail: ewajcho@aol.com

Register before March 2 and receive a devotion book and a nice gift bag.



Campamento para Damas Hispanic Women's Retreat

March 13-14, 2009
Central Hills Baptist Retreat

"At HIS Feet"

Cost - \$25

For registration form and detailed information contact
Marie Elena Treviño at 662-538-0777 / homerote@iname.com
Glenda Tzib at 662-488-0349 / rockytzib@bellsouth.net
Ana Silva at 662-456-7434 / church8855@bellsouth.net
Paula Smith at 800-748-1651, ext. 336 / psmith@mbcb.org



Special Guest
Teacher
Mirtha Esther
Baltodano

Originally from Peru,
Mirtha is ministering
with her husband at
"Dios Es Amor" Baptist
Church in Ensenada,
Baja California.



Christian
Performing Arts
Festival

February 27-28
Ridgecrest BC
Madison

Special Emphasis

CLOWNING

Featured Guests

LIBERTY & BELLE

conferences

- Drama
- Clowning
- Puppetry
- Church Recreation
- Student Ministry
- Media
- Missions



If you have any
questions about
the festival, please
contact
601-292-3283 or
1-800-748-1651 or
E-mail at
redwards@mbcb.org.

Sponsored by MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

2009 Senior Adult Retreats

I. May 18 & 19 at FBC, Holly Springs

Preacher: Clarence Cooper,
Brandon BC, Brandon

Choirs: I. FBC, Calhoun City
II. FBC, New Albany

The Gathering I: Justified Jug Band, Olive Branch
The Gathering II: Dulcimer Band, NE, Miss.

II. May 21 & 22 at FBC, Louisville

Preacher: Argile Smith, FBC, Biloxi
Choirs: I. FBC, Madison
II. Sunrise, FBC, Jackson

The Gathering I: Ragger Roos, Raymond
The Gathering II: Sunrise, FBC, Jackson

III. May 25 & 26 at FBC, Biloxi

Preacher: Bill Baker,
Former pastor at FBC, Clinton

Choirs: I. FBC, Hattiesburg
II. Cottage Hills, Mobile, Ala.

The Gathering I: John Yates, Enterprise, Ala.
The Gathering II: First Love, Metro Area

For more information, contact Discipleship & Family Ministry,
601-292-3284, 1-800-748-1651, dbrashier@mbcb.org

Conferences			
1. Laugh Ever After	Bill King, Opelika, Ala.	Mickey Bounds, Bastrop, La.	Judy Marby, Destin, Fla.
2. Lord Change My Attitude	P.J. Scott, Olive Branch	Gordon Sansing, Brandon	Don Stewart, Hattiesburg
3. Music: A. Dulcimers B. History of Hymns	A. Forrest Smith, Booneville	A. Forrest Smith, Booneville	B. Irene Martin, Forest
4. Picking up the Pieces	Conrad Howell, Jasper, Ala.	Talmadge Smith, Brookhaven	Bill Patterson, Richland
5. Let's Make a Deal	Daniel Hall, MBCB	Daniel Hall, MBCB	Daniel Hall, MBCB

Church Facilities & Furnishings

Workshop
March 17, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Parkway Baptist Church

For more info:

For more info:
Pastor Leadership
Ministry Department
601-292-3284
1-800-748-1651
E-mail: redwards@mbcb.org



**FAMILY
LIFE
CONFERENCES**
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 17
FBC, Leakesville
601-394-5124

- 1-2-3 Magic, Christian Parenting
by Chris Webb, FBC, Jackson
- Finances in the Family,
by Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, MBCB

Tuesday, March 3
New Bethel BC, Philadelphia
662-656-2301

- Love Languages of the Family
by Glenn Shows, Family Consultant, MBCB
- Finances in the Family
by Jerry Mixon, Stewardship Director, MBCB

For more information,
contact Discipleship &
Family Ministry
601-292-3284
1-800-748-1651
dbrashier@mbcb.org

MISSISSIPPI KIDS' CAMP 2009

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Miss.

Week I – June 22-24, 2009
Week II – June 25-27, 2009

FOR KIDS WHO HAVE COMPLETED GRADES 3-6

HIGHLIGHTS

- Worship
- Church Bible study
- Adventure Ropes course
- Horseback riding
- Archery/Killery • Fishing

COST \$150

For registration information, please contact MBCB Conference Office at (601) 292-3216.

For all boys and girls who have completed grades **3-8**

Cost \$110 with \$55 deposit

BIBLE DRILL CAMP
JUNE 29 - JULY 1, 2009
CENTRAL HILLS BAPTIST RETREAT

For info: Discipleship & Family Ministry Department
601-292-3287
dhicks@mbcb.org

STUDENT WEEKS GRADES 7-12

NO LIMITS

Jesus said, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"
John 11:40

HEARTSONG 2009 Music & Worship Arts Camp
June 23-27, 2009

for 7th-12th graders
William Carey University
Hattiesburg

Wes Bonner
FBC, Lexington

Slater Murphy
Fairview BC
Columbus

Worship Arts Classes:

- Art • Drama • Signing • Handbells • Voice
- Praise Team • Photography • Creative Use of Media
- Sound Engineering • Writing Music
- Interpretive Movement • Praise Band Instruments
- Banner Making • Keyboard • Beginning Guitar

Preparation Class and All-State Youth Choir Auditions

Also times of:

- Recreation • Community Ministry Projects
- Creative Worship • Talent Show • Family Groups

Cost per person:
\$167 on campus
\$30 for commuters

Complimentary Preview DVD available

STAND AND SHOUT®
by Dennis and Nan Allen
Students will learn and present the music drama collection, featuring the songs of Paul Baloche, Steven Curtis Chapman, Casting Crowns and others.

For more information, contact Susan Luttrell
1-800-748-1651 ext. 266, or sluttrell@mbcb.org

2009 State Singles' Retreat
30th Anniversary
May 16 & 17
Central Hills, Kosciusko

"Single Life with a Plus"

Break-outs

- Laughing ever after (Phil. 4:4)
Judy Marby, Destin, Fla
- Spiritual Gifts,
Wayne Hudson, Vancleave
- Building Boundaries
James Hayes, Biloxi
- Track I ... (for ages 25 to 35)
Worship and Bible study led by Casey Combest

Worship and celebration
with Moses Caesar, Tennessee
A moment with God
"Miss Chocolate,"
Gwen Williams, Picayune

Cost: \$40, commuter \$15

To register, call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 216, or mail fee to MBCB Conference Ministry Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MAY 8.

May 30-June 3
Gary Permenter and
Randy Tolleson
William Carey University, Hattiesburg

June 3-7
Ben Skipper and
Opie Thomas
William Carey University, Hattiesburg

June 11-15
Jon Daniels and
Will Reedy
Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko

June 18-22
Chris Thomas and
Brian Dedmon
Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

June 22-26
Grant Stegall and
Kevin Williams
Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

STUDENT WEEKS PROGRAM INFO:
Huey Dedmon
Student Ministry Specialist
hdedmon@mbcb.org
1-800-748-1651, ext. 320
601-292-3320
OR
Lee Ann Boykin
601-292-3292
1-800-748-1651, ext. 292
lboykin@mbcb.org

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly as I should."
Colossians 4:2-4

Pray for our Mississippi pastors in their multi-faceted church responsibilities. Pray for them to: (1) remember that all ministry is to be an overflow of their personal worship to God as He has revealed Himself through His Word; (2) depend fully on the Holy Spirit as the strength behind their ministries; (3) experience joy in their ministry.

Pray for Karl Novak Cicero Baptist Church in Cicero, New York. This church is a critical point in the process of obtaining property to house the church. Pray that city leaders will not hinder this purchase from happening.

Pray as the More Than Gold network in Vancouver makes plans for reaching out to the official Organizing Committee and the "Olympic Family" athletes, coaches, national Olympic committees, other officials, media, etc.; the up to 5 million expected visitors, and the local people, some of whom are excited and some disgruntled.

Pray for a former Miss. Baptist pastor, Brad Jones. He is currently a church planter in South Glens Falls, New York. Pray for the continuing growth and influence of this church in this New York town.

Pray for connections to be made between Miss. Baptist churches/associations and the North Central Association in Toledo, Ohio, and the Frontier Association in Buffalo, New York. These associations have been highlighted recently in our state by the Mission's Mobilization Department.

Central Spring Training - Regional Training for youth ministers, Parkway B.C., Clinton, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (D&FM).

A team from Bethany Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss., will be traveling to the Dominican Republic, Feb. 19-26. Pray for this team to have the opportunity to share the love of Christ with those they encounter through their ministry.

The Calhoun Baptist Assoc., is working to reach the Chachapoyas Quechua of N. Peru. Tim and Janice Stormant, Calhoun County Baptist, live in this area. Pray for: (1) the Stormants; (2) God to raise up pastors and leaders to help new believers; (3) these churches to form a missional network for evangelism and church planting.

MBCEF (Mississippi Baptist Christian Educators Fellowship), Brandon B.C., Brandon, noon, 19th-noon, 20th (CG).

AMD Interpretation & Dialog: Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton, 10:30, 26th - noon, 27th. (MS)

Pray for Jerry, a member of First Baptist Church Shannon, as he travels to Mexico, Feb. 13-23. He will primarily be working in the area of evangelism. Pray for Jerry as he travels and as he shares the truth of Christ with the people he meets.

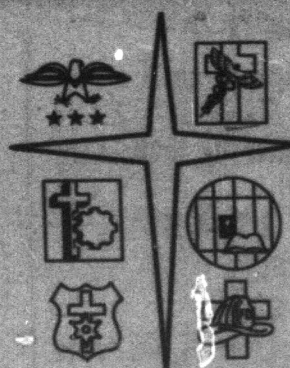
Christian Education Clinic, Highland B.C., Meridian, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. (D&FM).

Pray for a team from Star Baptist Church as they travel to Mexico, Feb. 20-28, to be involved in Bible study, painting and construction. Pray for safe travel, and pray that God will use their ministry to further kingdom work in Mexico.

Young Ringers Festival, Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, Clinton, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (CM).



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAIN'S ASSOCIATION



SPRING RETREAT
MARCH 6-7, GARAYWA, CLINTON
Guest musician at dinner, Erik Fearing
Guest speaker, Saturday, Jim Hightower
"Re-examining Your Call"

For more info: Carol Wright, Men's Ministry
601-292-3334, cwright@mbcb.org

Teaching about missions starts with the Cooperative Program

Download 8 Sunday School lessons for children **FREE!**

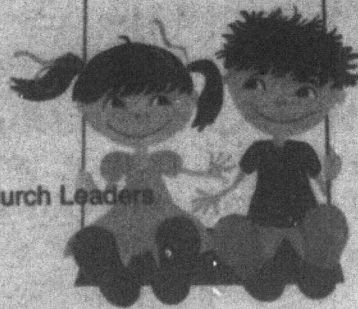
www.cpmiissions.net/2003/shop/products.asp?id=1

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Teamwork works! CP Children's Resource"

Lesson Titles:

- Introduction to the Cooperative Program
- Share the Good News Everywhere
- Missionaries Serve God Around the World
- Missions in North America
- Preparing Future Missionaries, Pastors and Other Church Leaders
- Living to Please God
- Helping Retired Ministers and Widows
- Sharing with Others about the Cooperative Program

For more info: Stewardship Department, 601-292-3347 or srobinson@mbcb.org



Send an MK a card!

4/1/93 - Mr. Drew Williams
Parents: Matt & Shea, East Frontier

4/2/96 - Mr. Micah Milam
Parents: Andy & Michelle, Western Europe

4/3/89 - Miss Alicia Racey
Parents: Michael & Annette, South America

4/5/04 - Mr. Noah C.
Parents: James and Tracy, Restricted

4/11/89 - Mr. Austin Brown
Parents: Dwayne & Donna, CEE

4/17/01 - Mr. Ethan Milam
Parents: Andy & Michelle, Western Europe

4/17/91 - Mr. Mason N.
Parents: J & J, Restricted

4/20/00 - Miss Mary Katelyn Simpson
Parents: Adam & Kristen, CEE

4/21/94 - Miss Sarah N.
Parents: J & J, Restricted

4/24/90 - Miss Kimberly Carlton
Parents: David & Pamela, Central, Eastern & South Africa

4/25/07 - Mr. Peyton Cunningham
Parents: Paul & Keri, South America

4/25/07 - Mr. Pierce Cunningham
Parents: Paul & Keri, South America

4/25/07 - Miss Elisabeth Savannah Johnson
Parents: Lew & Brandi, East Africa

4/27/01 - Miss Lindsey Williams
Parents: Matt & Shea, Last Frontier

4/28/87 - Miss Rebekah Ray
Parents: Michael & Linda, Central & Eastern Europe

4/28/91 - Mr. Cale Little
Parents: Bob & Amy, West Africa

4/29/93 - Mr. Christopher Carlton
Parents: David & Pamela, Central, Eastern & South Africa

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

1. John Dickson, choral director and dean of the Townsend School of Music at Mercer University, will present a lecture recital with the Mississippi College Singers Feb. 17. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Jean Pittman Williams Recital Hall and is free to the public. For information, call (601) 925-3440.
2. Mississippi College's nationally ranked table tennis team hosts the 2009 Dixie Division tournament Feb. 21 at the Baptist Healthplex. Ranked 14th best in America's collegiate ranks at the 2008 nationals, MC Choctaws will face five teams from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee at the February tournament on the Clinton campus. Beginning 9 a.m. that Saturday, the event is open to the public. Admission is free. The ping pong action concludes around 5 p.m.
3. The Corporation for National and Community Service honored William Carey University recently with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities. Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.
4. Prospective students and their parents will have an opportunity for a glimpse of life at Blue Mountain College when they participate in Winter Fest 2009, scheduled for February 21. Students will register at 9:30 a.m. and early registrants will be able to tour the campus until a panel discussion with faculty members at 10 a.m. Representatives from the admissions and financial aid departments will meet with participants at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon, and more campus tours will be available, until 1:45 when visitors will be guests at the BMC basketball games versus Lyons College. For complete information, contact Blue Mountain College Office of Admissions at (800) 235-0136 or www.bmc.edu.
5. Chatham Meade, director and curator of the Lucile Parker Art Gallery at William Carey University, will be exhibiting her art work from February through May, at Mississippi College in Clinton, the Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art in Laurel and the Lucile Parker Gallery in Hattiesburg. The first exhibit at Mississippi College will run February 5 through March 20. "A Family Affair" features paintings by Chatham and her mother Myra and drawings by her father Jim. The gallery is open 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. The opening reception is February 8 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. The Samuel Marshall Gore Galleries are located at 199 Monroe Street. Meade's work will appear at the Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art at the 2009 Mississippi Art Faculty Juried Exhibition February 20 through April 1. The opening reception is Sunday, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. The gallery is located at 565 N. Fifth Avenue in Laurel. The Chatham Meade Exhibit will appear at the Lucile Parker Art Gallery April 16 through May 6 on the Hattiesburg campus. The opening reception is April 16 at 5 p.m. and the gallery is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and by appointment by calling (601) 318-6528.

BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
© 2005

LAUC TMKJ QUTET ECLZ
LAUG, PAUC DU AMIU
XKVLUI EW LAU TZC ZV
GMC, LAUC TAMXX DU
RCZP LAML K MG AU,
MCJ LAML K JZ CZLAKCB
ZV GDTUXV; FEL MT GD
VMLAUU AMLA LMEBAL
GU, K TWUMR LAUTU
LAKCBT.
QZAC UKBAL: LPUCLD-
UKBAL

Clue: Q=I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-two: Sixty Nine



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PIANIST NEEDED FOR YOUR Church: We have piano CDs for churches to sing by. Call Worship Service Resources at 1-877-977-6800 or visit www.pianocds.org for info and a FREE sample CD. Hymns, Gospel, Praise Songs, Easter, etc. Call for special church pricing.

PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU. Visit the majestic Alps of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland June 21 - July 1, 2010, (only one weekend). See the world famous passion play. Contact Rev. Bill Stanford, 601-924-3747.

TO GIVE AWAY: 300 THEATRE SEATS (unassembled) to anyone who will pick them up. Contact Betty at 662-473-1473. Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Water Valley, Miss.

WANTED: HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH is looking for used partitions to put in our fellowship hall to create additional Sunday School space. Willing to pay. Please call 662-571-1753 or 601-720-4000.

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 877-477-1899.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, Inc., old Bibles rebound. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

CABIN IN GATLINBURG FOR RENT: 2 bedrm 2 bath, full kitchen. Great view of National park, \$95.00/night. Call for information 281-855-4469 or 832-922-0401/0141. Email pdw4760@att.net.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebre, owners.

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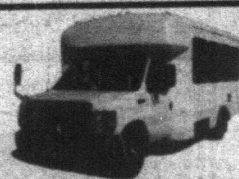
WOMEN'S MINISTRY SPEAKER: searching for a speaker for your next women's ministry event? Corrie Clay, founder of Filling the Gap Ministries, is ready to bring a fresh perspective from God's word to your ladies. To schedule Corrie, call 205-240-8872, or visit www.fillingthegapministries.com.

DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES. Baptist murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kinkdglas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, 800-728-8291.

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MS POSITIONS

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN Vicksburg, MS seeking individual for full-time Minister of Music. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, attn: personnel committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to IBC_personnel@yahoo.com.

SYLVARENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Wesson, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes to 1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson, MS 39191, attn: music search committee.

HOLCOMB BAPTIST CHURCH, Holcomb, Miss., is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to youth search committee, c/o HBC, 12135 Hwy. 8 West, Grenada, MS 38901.

MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Jackson, Miss., is seeking a part-time or bi-vocational pastor. The pastor must reside in

Hinds, Rankin, or Madison county. Please submit resume to the pastor search committee, 5609 Clinton Blvd., Jackson, MS 39209 or email to talbaughn@bellsouth.net.

THE WAY COMMUNITY CHURCH, A new church start and member of the Winston Baptist Association, is in search of an energetic, bi-vocational pastor to lead contemporary style worship. Please send resumes to Vicki Chambliss, P.O. Box 687, Louisville, MS 39339.

THOMPSON BAPTIST CHURCH, Smithdale, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Energetic leadership for 3 worship services on Sunday and to work with choirs, etc. Send resume to Martha Barron, search committee chairman, 5226 N Greensburg Rd., Smithdale, MS 39664.

LIBERTY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, Pope, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music and a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to search committee, 5033 Pope-Water Valley Rd., Pope, MS 38658.

TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH, LOCATED 12 miles south of Monticello, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational minister of youth. Primary responsibilities include youth trips and activities, Bible studies. Send resume to Topeka Baptist Church, 807 China Grove Rd., Jayess, MS 39641, 601-587-4195.

SMITHVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Smithville, MS, Monroe Baptist Assoc., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume with references to pastor search committee, Smithville Baptist Church, P. O. Box 52, Smithville, MS 38870.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Baby and children's dedication, Leflore Church



2. Dedication, First Church, Wiggins



3. GAs, Fredonia Church



4. Deacon ordination, Liberty Hill Church



1. Leflore Church, Holcomb, held a baby and children's dedication Feb. 1, with 15 children and babies dedicated. Shown are the families.
2. First Church, Wiggins, dedicated Phase II of its family life building Jan. 25, with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Shown are members of the building committee. G. Wiley Abel, pastor.
3. The GAs of Fredonia Church, New Albany, enjoyed a visit from Robin Keels, children's mission consultant, Mississippi Baptist WMU. Shown are the participants.
4. Liberty Hill Church, Pope, recently ordained Chuck Wilson and Chad Williams as deacons. Shown are Arlene Wilson, Wilson, pastor Jay Anderson, Williams, and Amanda Williams.
5. Robinwood Church, Saucier, is hosting a winter banquet and southern gospel concert Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m. \$15 single, \$25 couple. Concert featuring Answered Prayers at 7:30 p.m. A love offering will be received. For information, call (228) 324-2964.
6. The children's ministry of Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn, presented the Christmas production Candy Cane Lane with 42 children participating.
7. Over 175 youth from six churches studied the book of James in a "Two-Faced" themed DiscipleNow weekend in Neshoba County Jan. 16 - 17. There were at least three decisions for Christ and 30 decisions for repentance.
8. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting Low Note Duo Feb. 21, 6 p.m. in concert.
9. Marlo Seane is available for interim, supply, and full-time or bi-vocational pastorate. He is a Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary graduate. Call (601) 939-0684 or 672-7020, or 115 Oak Park Dr., Pearl, MS 39208.
10. Big Springs Church, Brookhaven, is hosting its annual soup supper Feb. 21, 4 - 6:30 p.m., \$5.

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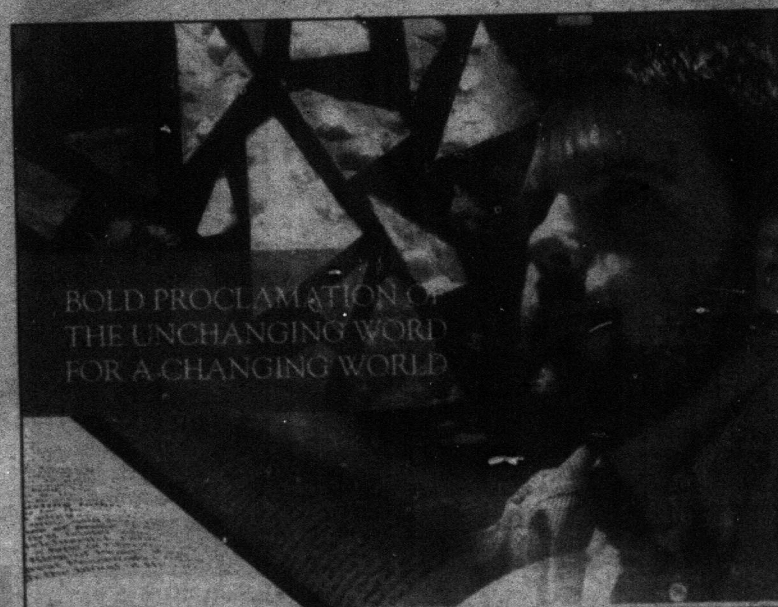
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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Pray in Jesus' Name

John 14:12-14; 15:14-16; 16:23-26

By Bill Patterson

More than twenty years ago, a lady visited the church I pastored. After the services I met her, thanked her for attending worship, and invited her to come again. She bluntly said, "I'm never coming back."

Her reply stunned me, so I asked, "Why?"

"Because when you prayed you didn't close by saying 'in Jesus' name.'"

Sometimes I conclude my prayers that way and sometimes I don't. I guess she caught me on the wrong day. Her comments did something good for me, though. They made me search the Bible to find what it means to pray "in Jesus' name." What I discovered has blessed me for years and I pray—in Jesus' name—that you will be blessed, too,

as you study this lesson on some of the things it means.

To pray in Jesus' name doesn't indicate simply to add those words to the end of our prayers. When we read the prayers of Jesus' disciples in the New Testament, we never read the words, "in Jesus' name." That fact tells me that they did not interpret Jesus to signify that they should use "in Jesus' name" like a rabbit's foot or a four-leaf clover. Saying "in Jesus' name" is not like Ali Baba's saying "Open Sesame."

What, then does it mean to pray in Jesus' name?

Seek What Glorifies God
(John 14:12-14)

Jesus began His words in verse 12 with "Truly, truly" ("Verily, verily" in the KJV or "amen, amen" in the Greek).



Patterson

Whenever the double "amen" appears, it always signifies something very important is about to come. (Think of this usage in John 3:5, for instance, when Jesus shared with Nicodemus about being born again.)

Jesus followed the use of "amen" in John 14 by saying believers would do "what I have been doing" and "greater things than these." In this context Jesus promised to do "whatever you ask in my name" and "ask anything in my name and I will do it" (v. 13).

Jesus' use of "greater things" refers to things greater in quantity, not in quality. When Jesus was on the earth He was limited to one place. His many believers fan across the globe in His name.

In January a friend of mine preached in a leper colony in India. Fourteen people held up fingerless hands to signify they had received the Lord Jesus. Of course, the Holy Spirit did that through my

friend, just as He does "greater things" through you. Every time you yield to Christ and do something our Lord would have you do, "greater works" occur.

Some have taken the terms "whatever you ask in my name" and "ask anything in my name and I will do it" out of context. For them, Jesus made a contract with believers to indicate He would do anything at all, period. Their faith is shaken when they ask to win big at a casino and God doesn't come through for them. They have ignored the context that Jesus' words apply to doing what He would do.

Participate in Jesus' Work
(John 15:14-16)

When Jesus told the disciples "whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you" (v. 16), it must be seen in the framework that we have been chosen to "produce fruit."

Praying "in Jesus' name" is not a chant that gets the Father in the mood to answer a prayer He would not otherwise grant. It means we are under the

authority of the Lord Jesus. As we do His work, He will answer our prayers.

Enjoy Immediate Access to God (John 16:23-26)

In this passage Jesus again used the term, "amen, amen," (v. 23). He wanted to be certain we didn't miss the great promise He granted.

The disciples hadn't asked anything in the name of Jesus before His death. They didn't have to because Jesus asked on their behalf. After His death and resurrection, however, we are to ask in the name of Jesus.

If I requested a bank teller to cash a check for a hundred thousand dollars, the teller would either laugh at me or call the guards. If, however, I carried a valid check from one of the bank's officers and, in his name, asked it to be cashed, the request would be granted. When we do the Lord's work in the Lord's way, we have the Lord's name (authority) to back our requests.

Patterson is pastor of First Church, Richland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

You Can Stay Calm

II Thessalonians 2:1-17

By Joyce C. Rogers

This second letter from Paul to the Thessalonians was written to clarify some misunderstandings about the second coming of Jesus. They had interpreted "suddenly" to mean "immediately" (The Teacher's Bible Commentary by Paschall and Hobbs.) Some of them quit working, got rid of possessions, etc. thinking that Jesus' coming was to be soon. Others were anxious and excited, not knowing what to believe.

Reject

Paul asked the Thessalonians "not to be easily upset in mind or troubled, either by a spirit or by a message or by a letter as if from us, alleging that the Day of the Lord has come" (II Thessalonians 2:2 HCSB). It is implied that a forged letter from someone who claimed to be Paul

had circulated, confusing the Thessalonians.

They were urged not to be deceived. There were events that must happen first, preceding the Day of the Lord. "The man of lawlessness (sin) must be revealed and doomed to destruction. That 'man' will deceive many. He will exalt himself as god and oppose the worship of the true God. The apostasy (rebellion) will come first. Some believe that the man of lawlessness is the Antichrist. Some think the antichrist is the pope or Hitler.

Jesus discussed the events of the end time in Matthew 24 and 25. Nation will rise against nation. There will be wars and rumors of war. Believers will be hated, persecuted and killed. The gospel will be preached to the whole world. There will be false Christs and false prophets



Rogers

who will perform false signs and miracles. Don't be deceived. When Jesus comes accompanied by angels He will come in great glory. There will be no doubt about the reality of His coming.

Today there are unbiblical ideas about the second coming. Some say He has already come. Some say the Day of the Lord is not going to be a literal event.

Remember

When he was with the Thessalonians, Paul had told them about the second coming. We don't know what he meant when he said, "what currently restrains him, so that he will be revealed in his time" (verse 6), but apparently the Thessalonians did know what he meant, so there was no necessity to explain.

The Lord Jesus will destroy him (the lawless one) with the breath of His mouth and will bring him to nothing with the brightness of His coming. (verse 8). The man of sin or

lawlessness has followed Satan. Those who have followed Satan will perish. "They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth in order to be saved" (verse 10).

Those who will perish have had a chance to believe but have rejected the Lord Jesus. God has then allowed them to go their chosen way and be deceived. They even enjoy unrighteousness.

Satan is clever and the Father of Lies. He is able to deceive his followers.

Stand Firm

God is just. He will redeem His believers and will condemn those who refuse to believe. Verse 7 speaks of the "one now restraining." It may have been a reference to the Roman Government. The civil government usually restrains those who do wrong. We know that Jesus will be victorious and will gather His own. He will condemn forever Satan and all who belong to him. We can stay calm and secure in the knowledge of God's justice and love for His own. The

bottom line is that God is in control and always will be.

It may be difficult to understand why God will send a "strong delusion so that they will believe what is false" (verse 11). The unbeliever has already made his choice. "God sends them a strong delusion" expresses God's judgment on the unsaved, using their error to punish them. He subjects those who reject the gospel and choose sin to the power of their sin (see Romans 1:24-28 HCSB).

The Thessalonians are urged to stand firm in their love for God and one another. "God has chosen you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth" (II Thessalonians 2:13 HCSB). Their choice brought "glory to the Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 14).

II Thessalonians, chapter 2, ends with a blessing and benediction to encourage the believers in every good work and word" (verse 17).

Rogers is a member of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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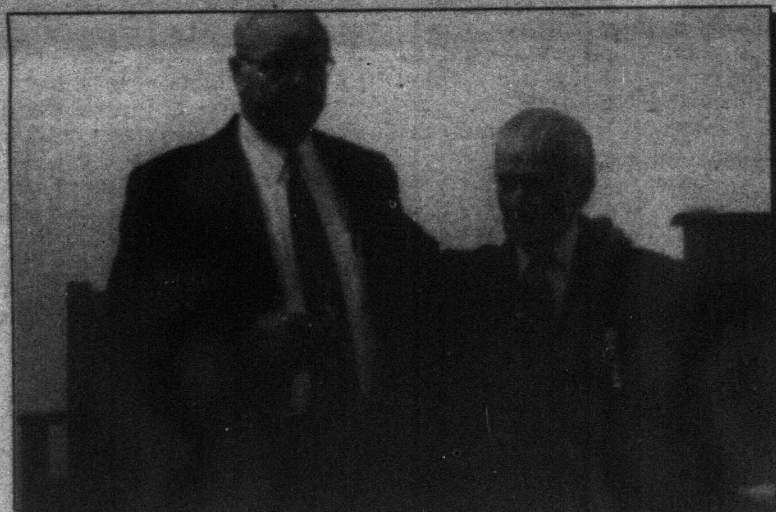
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Rawls Springs Church



2. Lakeside church dedication



3. Mount Vernon Church



4. Deacon appreciation, Phillipston Church

1. Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg, was recognized Jan. 22 at the legislative session in Jackson for its 125th anniversary by Representative Harvey Fillingane. Shown, from left, are Sen. Polk, John Prine, Ernest Walters, Doug Robbins, Betty Walters, pastor John Cockrell, E.P. Quick, Erin Ellzey, Beverly Ellzey, and, in front, Jacob Ellzey.

2. Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, dedicated their new church Nov. 23, 2008, with eight baptized, 12 babies and toddlers dedicated, gospel singing, and a harvest dinner. Approximately 240 attended.

3. Mount Vernon Church, Minter City, recently recognized Grover Kyle for 48 years perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown are Kyle, 91, and pastor Robert Smith.

4. Phillipston Church, Mid-Delta Association, held deacon appreciation day Jan. 25. Shown are Charles Boyd and Marvin Alderman, who were honored for 50 years of combined service. Shown are the two deacons.

5. The congregation of Oral Church, Sumrall, celebrated the ordination of three deacons, Beau Haden, Dale Martin, and Knight Northrop Jan. 25. Shown are pastor Johnny Martin, Marlissa Northrop, Northrop, Tasha Haden, Haden, Frances Martin, Martin, James Hatten, and Harvey Fillingane.

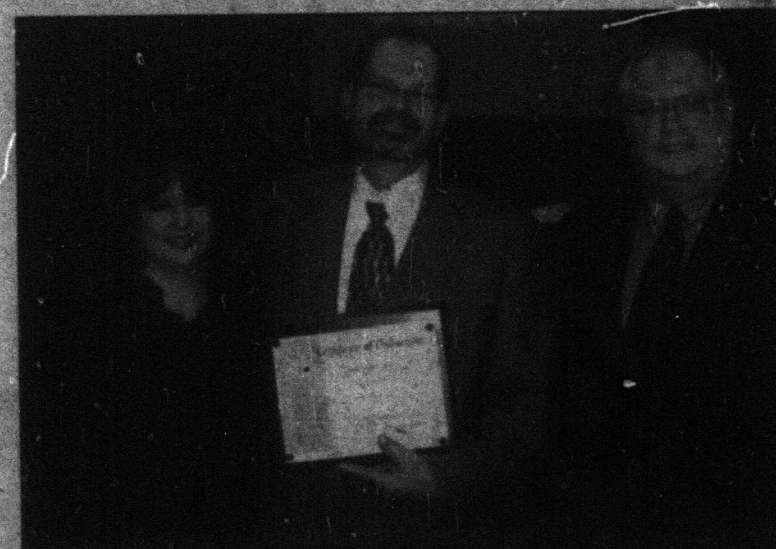
6. Corinth Church, Purvis, ordained Jerry Purvis as minister of music Jan. 25. Shown are Libby Purvis, Purvis, and pastor Brad Ford.

7. First Church Myrick, Laurel, ordained Ken Walters and Stewart Walters as deacons Feb. 1. Shown, first row, are Stewart Walters, Ken Walters, and Donnie Ward; back row, pastor Jackie Spell, Larry Tidwell, Kevin Ishee, and Eddie Ingram.

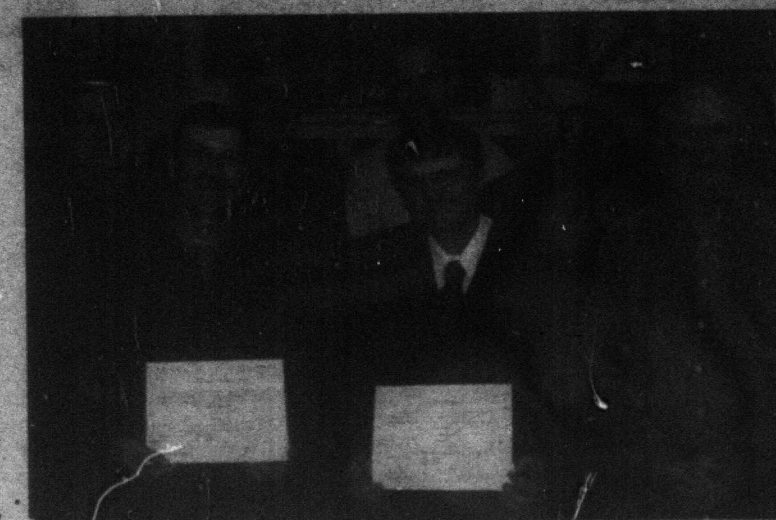
8. First Church, Pascagoula, held a penny drive called Mile for Moon, with the RAs attempting to raise 84,480 pennies. Shown are the participants.



5. Deacon ordination, Oral Church



6. Purvis ordination



7. Walters ordination



8. First Church, Pascagoula

